SECRET
Approved For Release 2005/09/28 : CIA-RDP79R00967A001500030009-4

22 May 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: 19 May 1972 Meeting of USIB Representatives on the Current Situation in Vietnam

1. The USIB Representatives met with the BNE for the third time on this date to compare information and judgments on Soviet and Chinese responses to the US interdiction effort in North Vietnam.

2. It was observed that there had been no essential change in the posture of either the Chinese or Soviets since the previous meeting. There was agreement that the Soviets were not likely to challenge the US measures directly at least until the Presidential visit to the USSR had ended. Moscow was in fact hardly more likely to shift to a more belligerent course even after the Summit, since to do so would be to risk the success of a broad policy of which the Summit is a manifestation not the culmination.

3. The Chairman noted that, aside from certain Soviet naval movements, neither the Russians nor the

SECRET
Approved For Release 2005/09/28 : CIA-RDP79R00967A001500030009-4

Approved For Release 2005/09/28 : CIA-RDP79R00967A001500030009-4

Chinese had taken any of the steps potentially available to them in response to the US action. The Chinese have so far done nothing. There are some indications that the Soviets and Chinese are discussing means to increase the overland movement of Soviet material via China. There is no evidence that concrete actions have resulted, but the USIB group continues to be strongly of the opinion that the Russians and the Chinese would be able to set aside their differences to the extent necessary to cooperate in such efforts.

4. The Air Force Representative reported that rolling stock had begun to accumulate at marshalling yards at Hanoi and near the Chinese-North Vietnamese border. This was accepted as evidence that rail routes in North Vietnam had indeed been cut. The OER Representative, in accepting this finding, at the same time, observed that it was as yet impossible to know what success the North Vietnamese would have in adjusting to this situation.

5. The Chairman stated that the D/NE would report to the DCI that the three meetings of USIB Representatives that had taken place so far served well to expose the

Approved For Release 2005/09/28 : CIA-RDP79R00967A001500030009-4

Approved For Release 2005/09/28 : CIA-RDP79R00967A001500030009-4

available information and assessments on the problem at hand. A further session was not scheduled but the group might want to reconvene to assess the situation after the Summit -- or, of course, in the meantime, if developments warrant.

[redacted] 25X1

Approved For Release 2005/09/28 : CIA-RDP79R00967A001500030009-4